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**DeNUCCI SAYS FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED
AT ROXBURY C.C. DESPITE RECENT PROGRESS**

State Auditor Joe DeNucci reported today that Roxbury Community College has made considerable progress over the past year in addressing problems with its student financial assistance programs and other financial areas, but that additional improvements are still needed.

DeNucci's report, conducted as part of the statewide Single Audit, recommended further improvement in several areas identified in the last audit issued a year ago. Additionally, the audit found several new problems at RCC that need to be addressed.

Among the new problems identified in DeNucci's latest audit were students being inappropriately awarded Pell Grants without a documented high school diploma and using inaccurate information when applying for financial aid, such as incorrect Social Security numbers and different dates of birth; a Pell Grant recipient who failed to make satisfactory academic progress but still kept his grant award; and an internal control plan that needs to be updated.

According to DeNucci's audit, RCC awarded \$3,682 in Pell Grants to one student who received federal aid under possibly false pretenses. A review of the student's files revealed six separate applications with different dates between 1998 and 2001, and two others that were undated. In addition, the applicant entered three different Social Security numbers and two different dates of birth. Two more Social Security numbers were used when the student cashed two refund checks totaling \$1,725.

DeNucci noted that RCC has implemented new hardware and software systems to improve the efficiency of its student aid monitoring. Nevertheless, DeNucci said the college should continue to improve and update its administration of student financial assistance to bring it into full compliance with federal requirements.

"Roxbury Community College has made progress from the time when its student aid records were in such disarray that my office couldn't audit them," said DeNucci. "But the college still needs to give more attention to oversight and accountability."

